

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/RA:EAPADELFORD

APPROVED BY: NEA/RA:SEPALMERJR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDOCOSTRIKEFORSOUTH

S E C R E T STATE 059319

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT TUNIS 1593, SENT SECSTATE 5 MARCH 76:

QUOTE S E C R E T TUNIS 1593

DEPT PLS PASS USCINCSOUTH NAPLES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TS

SUBJECT: ALLEGED PLANS FOR NATO SHIP VISIT TO TUNIS

1. EMBASSY HAS HEARD REPORT THAT NATO NAVAL UNIT IS SUPPOSED TO VISIT TUNIS APRIL 24-27 ON WAY FROM ISTANBUL TO TOULON. UNIT IS SAID TO CONSIST OF FOUR SHIPS: BRITISH, ITALIAN, TURKISH AND USS PATTERSON. IT IS FURTHER ALLEGED THAT TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY APPROVED VISIT.

2. WE ASSUME THAT THERE IS NO FOUNDATION TO REPORT OF VISIT SINCE NO CLEARANCE HAS BEEN SOUGHT FROM THIS EMBASSY. ALSO BRITISH AND ITALIAN EMBASSIES HERE UNAWARE OF ANY VISIT AND EXPRESSED DISBELIEF THAT TUNISIANS WOULD AGREE TO NATO VISIT OR THAT SUCH A VISIT WOULD HAVE BEEN REQUESTED WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE.

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3. WE AGREE THAT IT MOST UNLIKELY THAT TUNISIANS

WOULD AGREE TO NATO VISIT, AND OBVIOUSLY NO APPROACH
SHOULD BE MADE WITHOUT FULLEST CONSULTATION BEFORE-
HAND AMONG PARTIES CONCERNED.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE IS
ANY POSSIBLE SUBSTANCE TO THIS STORY. SEELYE UNQUOTE.
INGERSOLL

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